**Amendment and Response**
Applicant: John Malvern Swope
Serial No.: 10/643,665
Filed: Aug. 19, 2003
Docket No.: 200205326-1
Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DETERMINING CONSTRAINTS FOR A PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD
DESIGN MODULE

## REMARKS

The following remarks are made in response to the Office Action mailed September 22, 2005. Claims 1-22 were rejected. With this Response, claims 1, 13, and 18 have been amended. Claims 1-22 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

### Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections.

Although Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, Applicant has amended claims 1, 13, and 18 to overcome the rejection and expedite the prosecution of the present application.

As to the portion of the rejection of paragraphs 3a), 3b), and 3c) of the Office Action, claim 1, as amended, recites *inter alia* "compiling information that is usable to derive one of more low level details associated with a printed circuit board; determining one or more high level constraints that are usable with the information to generate the low level details subsequent to compiling the information" (emphasis added). Applicant respectfully submits that the relationship between these features of claim 1 is clearly recited.

As to the portion of the rejection of paragraphs 3d) and 3e) of the Office Action, claim 1, as amended, recites *inter alia* "subsequent to determining the one or more high level constraints, generating the printed circuit board design module such that the printed circuit board design module includes the information and such that the printed circuit board design module is configured to receive the one or more high level constraints and generate the low level details using the information in response to receiving the one or more high level constraints" Applicant respectfully submits that the relationship between these features of claim 1 is clearly recited.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for at least the reasons given above. Applicant respectfully

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submits that claims 13 and 18, as amended, also overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for at least the reasons given above for claim 1.

## Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sato et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2005/0086626).

Applicant is filing herewith a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 to swear behind Sato as prior art. Applicants respectfully request approval of this Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 and, based on this Declaration, that Sato be removed as a prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). With the removal of Sato, the rejection to claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sato no longer applies.

In view of the above, claims 1-22 are believed to be in form for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

## CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-22 are in form for allowance and are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-22 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the below-listed telephone numbers to facilitate prosecution of this application.

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Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either David A. Plettner at Telephone No. (408) 447-3013, Facsimile No. (408) 447-0854 or Christopher P. Kosh at Telephone No. (512) 231-0533, Facsimile No. (512) 231-0540. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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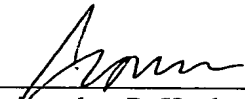P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-2400

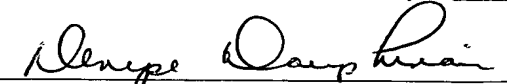Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope address to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 20th day of January, 2006.

By _____
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